

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for monitoring a utility substation comprising:

monitoring equipment operatively connected to a utility substation for monitoring operating conditions of the utility substation;

the monitoring equipment being operatively connected to an application service provider through a first communication network;

one or more network interface devices operatively connected to the application service provider by a second communication network for receiving notification of operating conditions of the utility substation monitored by the monitoring equipment.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the monitoring equipment comprises one or more devices for measuring the voltage and current in an electrical power utility substation.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second communication networks is the Internet.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first communication network and the second communication network comprise the same network.
5. The system of claim 1, further comprising an equipment database operatively connected to at least one of the first and second communication networks, the equipment database being accessible by one or more of the application service provider and the one or more network interface devices.
6. The system of claim 1, further comprising an expertise database.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider includes a reporting system for automatically generating reports relating to the operation of at least one of the utility substations.

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11. A system for monitoring a utility substation comprising:

the monitoring equipment being operatively connected to an application service provider through a first communication network;

an equipment database operatively connected to at least one of the first and second communication networks, the equipment database being accessible by one or more of the application service provider and the one or more network interface devices;

an expertise database,

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wherein the first and second communication networks are the Internet,

wherein at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider includes a scheduling program for scheduling maintenance operations for at least one of the utility substations,

wherein at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider includes an administrative tracking program for providing administrative functions for at least one of the utility substations, and

wherein at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider includes a remote operation module for remotely operating at least one of the substations.

12. A method for monitoring a utility substation comprising the steps of:

operatively connecting monitoring equipment to a utility substation for monitoring operating conditions of the utility substation;

operatively connecting the monitoring equipment to an application service provider through a first communication network;

operatively connecting one or more network interface devices to the application service provider by a second communication network for receiving notification of operating conditions of the utility substation monitored by the monitoring equipment.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the monitoring equipment comprises one or more devices for measuring the voltage and current in an electrical power utility substation.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein at least one of the first and second communication networks is the Internet.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the first communication network and the second communication network comprise the same network.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of operatively connecting an equipment database to at least one of the first and second communication networks the equipment database being accessible by one or more of the application service provider and the one or more network interface devices.

17. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of incorporating an expertise database into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider.

18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of incorporating a reporting system for automatically generating reports relating to the operation of at least one of the utility substations into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider.

19. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of incorporating a scheduling program for scheduling maintenance operations for at least one of the utility substations into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider.

20. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of incorporating an administrative tracking program for providing administrative functions for at least one of the utility substations into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider.

21. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of incorporating a remote operation module for remotely operating at least one of the substations into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider.

22. A method for monitoring a utility substation comprising the steps of:

operatively connecting monitoring equipment, comprising one or more devices for measuring the voltage and current in an electrical power utility substation, to a utility substation for monitoring operating conditions of the utility substation;

operatively connecting the monitoring equipment to an application service provider through a first communication network;

operatively connecting one or more network interface devices to the application service provider by a second communication network for receiving notification of operating conditions of the utility substation monitored by the monitoring equipment,

wherein the first and second communication networks are the Internet,

wherein the first communication network and the second communication network comprise the same network;

operatively connecting an equipment database to at least one of the first and second communication networks the equipment database being accessible by one or more of the application service provider and the one or more network interface devices;

incorporating an expertise database into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider;

incorporating a reporting system for automatically generating reports relating to the operation of at least one of the utility substations into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider;

incorporating a scheduling program for scheduling maintenance operations for at least one of the utility substations into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider;

incorporating an administrative tracking program for providing administrative functions for at least one of the utility substations into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider; and

incorporating a remote operation module for remotely operating at least one of the substations into at least one of the one or more network interface devices and the application service provider.

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